Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 16 November 2016

**Present:** Dr Elena Della Rosa (Course director, Postgraduate diploma Psychodynamic Counselling), Fiona Gillies (secretary), Sue Kegerreis (Course director MA Psychodynamic Counselling (MAPC), Dr Kevin Lu (Chair) (Course director, MA Jungian & Post Jungian Studies)

Student reps present: Simon Broad (MAPC 1st year rep), Eleanor Bullivant (Grad dip PC rep), Camilo Munoz (MAJ rep)

**Apologies:** Charis Christodoulou (MA R.Care rep), Matt ffytche, Greta Kaluzeviciute (MAPS rep), Professor Renos Papadopoulos, Rachel Phillipo-Green (MAPC 2nd year rep), Chris Tanner

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<th>1. Apologies.</th>
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<td>2. Minutes of the Last Meeting: The minutes were approved.</td>
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<td>3. Matters Arising: All matters had been dealt with.</td>
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<td>4. Report from the student satisfaction survey 2016 The overall quality of the</td>
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<td>degree percent was 91%, which is higher than that of last year which was 67%.</td>
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<td>The assessment and feedback had the lowest score at 68%, staff are aware of</td>
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<td>this and hopefully this will improve. Kevin did discuss for MA Jungian and Post</td>
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<td>Jungian Studies, some students may have given a low score, due to Kevin being</td>
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<td>the only academic running MAJ, due to staff on sabbatical. All MA Course leads,</td>
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<td>need to ensure that this area improves on their courses. SK spoke of the need</td>
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<td>to encourage students to complete the survey as responses were low.</td>
<td>All academic staff</td>
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5. Welcome week feedback and reports from constituencies

**MA Jungian and Post Jungian Studies**

Overall Camilo reported that the Welcome day was good, except for the registration. There needs to be more time given so students do not miss any of the talks. FG reported this will be discussed with Debbie Stewart who organises the Welcome day and rectified for next year.

CM reported that the course is going well. The only issue that has been problematic has been the Skype lectures not always working efficiently. KL reported it was unfortunate this year that there had been issues with staff, but this will be resolved for next year.

**Research students**

Tom reported that he and Anu seem to be the only PhD students using the PhD rooms. As this gives them more room, could they please have two bigger chairs for reading, the larger, lower grey chairs that are in offices. Could the four-drawer cabinet be removed and they have two two-drawer cabinets that fit under the desks.
Tom wondered how as the rep he could get more research students to engage in the Research Forums etc, so there was more of a PhD community within CPS. He feels it would help if more academic staff were present at the Research Forums. He wondered if to encourage students to attend that they could be reimbursed for travel. MA students should also be invited, but it was believed they already are. TK also had the idea of academics giving short presentations around their current research, even if it is ongoing. This may spark more interest for attendance and create a more active dialogue. TK is trying his upmost to bring the Research students together.

**Postgraduate diploma Psychodynamic Counselling**

Elli reported good feedback for the Welcome day. The only question she had from her cohort was around the BACP accreditation. When will the course have gained it? SK explained that she was told to hold on gaining the accreditation until the CPS Review had been completed. SK explained this is a lengthy process, lots of paperwork, site visit, reports, recommendations etc. SK will be more active on this, once the Review has been completed in the Spring term. SK explained that students can gain their own accreditation and should continuously check the BACP website for information of this.

**MA Psychodynamic Counselling – 1st years**

Simon had positive Welcome day feedback. Everyone on the course seems happy. SB had observed how busy academic staff are and it is impossible to see them as they are rushing around. SK and EDR spoke about their office hour and that students should email them for an appointment. They are rushing on their teaching days as they have full days.

**MA Psychodynamic Counselling – 2nd years**

A report was submitted by email and the following points were addressed:

- Due to placement and supervision commitments, sadly none of MAPC year two were able to attend the welcome week session to meet new students, although we hope to get the opportunity to meet with the first year cohort at Christmas. **SK asked reps to canvas opinion about a Christmas get together.**

- The beginning of term was a little bumpy, with a new workshop tutor taking over from Davina. We appreciated that there was no disruption to our learning with the prompt staff reassignment. However, some felt that, if a communication from Davina had been unrealistic, then some form of notification about the change of personnel might have been helpful to support us in this transition. **SK explained that this was unavoidable as Dr Brown gave short notice of her resignation.**

- The term has so far progressed well, and all students have been able to get started immediately with the school placements that were set up at the end of the previous year.

- It became apparent by chance, recently, that the MAPC year 2 cohort had not received the welcome pack which included the revised handbook. Such administrative errors provoke certain members of the group to feel, rightly or wrongly, that our limited size (having lost another member) results in us, at times, being overlooked. **FG reported that all handbooks are on the CPS website for students to access. Only brand new students receive a Welcome pack.**
**MA Refugee Care**  
A report was submitted by email from the rep.  

**PA927 – Psychoanalysis of Groups and Organizations**

- The quality of the seminars are considered to be good.  
- Chris Tanner is considered by the class as an excellent coordinator of the module, with an interest and intellect that shine through. He shows evident effort in trying to engage and aid the students.  
- The layout of the seminar room seems to be a setback as it is harder for students to work in groups and interact with peers as the tables are set in rows.  
- They found the readings to be useful and a beneficial in conjunction with the seminars.

**PA931 – Context of the refugee experience**

- Recommended readings are considered easy to manage.  
- Lecturer is excellent at engaging and aiding students.  
- Seminars are enjoyable and informative.  
- The addition of the group tutorial has encouraged participation  
- Overall the quality of the lecture is considered to be excellent and highly enjoyed by the majority of the students.

**M35/D35 Working with Refugee People and Families**

- The students feel that the lecture could be more engaging but the content is considered to be overall good.  
- Reading material is considered to be very good.  
- Guest lecturers were considered to be excellent. The students considered their classes to be very informative and interesting.  
- A lot of students are displeased in regards to the organisation of the placement that will be taking place next term. The evident theme that emerges through the students’ comments is the lack of coordination and communication with them.

**MA Psychoanalytic Studies**  
A report was submitted by email.  

Thoughts/feedback on the course so far:  

- Some students have expressed their preference regarding the teaching methods in some of the modules, specifically in that they would prefer to receive more presentation slides that they can later on access on Moodle.  

- There has still been some confusion regarding the formative essay, as it still appears on two modules on FASer – not all of the students followed my email exchange with Fiona regarding this, and we also have a new student now, too, who would obviously not be aware of this. *All fine and everyone submitted as they should.*  

- Christmas meal: not sure if CPS itself organises anything for its postgraduate (or even undergraduate) students for Christmas, but as I know that a few other departments like to organise Christmas meals in
some set restaurant for their postgraduate (predominantly PhD) students to celebrate the end of term, I have suggested this to my student peers and they are very keen to do this. If this is not something that CPS does – or would like to be involved in, as our lecturers/admin staff would be very much welcome to join us! – we can organise this ourselves. Please let me know if anyone would like to join us as we would be looking into booking a table sometime soon – feel free to email me at gkaluz@essex.ac.uk

- PhD scholarships: from my personal experience, I have been having a very hard time to figure out which scholarships are applicable to CPS, with no response from either ends (Anne Snowling) or the people who are in charge of the specific scholarships. These are CHASE (in charge: Kay Wiggins) and SeNNS (in charge: Felicity Szesnat and Kay Wiggins) scholarships. Perhaps the admin staff or lecturers would have more success at extracting this information. Dr Kevin Lu advised that he answered Greta’s emails regarding CHASE and other scholarships and Anne also responded immediately after leave, so is confused by these comments.

**MA Management and Organisational Dynamics**

No rep appointed or presence at meeting.

**6. Student social events**

KL reported how well the MAJ trip went last Friday to SAP etc. SK reported she was planning some future trips. One is to the Thomas Coram – the Foundling Hospital and Mulberry Bush – Therapeutic residential school.

**7. Any other business**

KL spoke about the need for student volunteers for the Periodic Review next term. The reps present said they would ask and FG will let everyone know the dates/time for this. **Students have been informed the meeting is Wednesday 1 March 2017.**